

Senate Resolution 1150

By: Senator Chapman of the 3rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending St. Marys First Presbyterian Church on the occasion of its
2 bicentennial celebration; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, St. Marys First Presbyterian Church was completed on April 18, 1808, and will
4 celebrate its bicentennial this year; and

5 WHEREAS, the town of St. Marys was founded in December, 1787, and the people of the
6 town expressed their desire for a church by raising \$3,442.00 for a nondenominational
7 community church which was built in 1807; and

8 WHEREAS, on April 18, 1808, \$117.00 was subscribed for the purpose of purchasing a bell
9 which was to weigh not less than 200 pounds, to be cast in Philadelphia, and to be inscribed:
10 "My sound to thy people, O Lord, shall call them to thy word"; and

11 WHEREAS, the church remained nondenominational until a young Presbyterian missionary,
12 Horace Southworth Pratt, from the Presbytery of New Brunswick, New Jersey, arrived in St.
13 Marys in 1821; and

14 WHEREAS, with a pulpit vacant, Mr. Pratt was ordained as a Presbyterian pastor and was
15 installed as the minister for the community Presbyterian Church; and

16 WHEREAS, by an Act of the Georgia Legislature, the independent Presbyterian Church of
17 St. Marys incorporated on December 20, 1828, and the Act was amended on December 5,
18 1832, incorporating the church under the name First Presbyterian Church of St. Marys,
19 Georgia, and the congregation was "made capable of holding, enjoying, and defending any
20 property they may have or may hereafter acquire"; and

21 WHEREAS, the first floor of the church was used for a weekday public school for the
22 children of St. Marys for many years and became known as the Academy; and

1 WHEREAS, St. Marys Presbyterian Church has the distinction of being the oldest church
2 building in continuous use since its erection, with continuous restoration and renovations
3 during the ensuing years keeping the colonial exterior beauty of the church; and

4 WHEREAS, after a disastrous fire in 1956, Dr. Thomas G. Little, a consultant for the
5 Georgia Historical Commission, visited the church to examine it and found it to be the finest
6 example of early church architecture existing in Georgia, stating that it was truly a work of
7 art as each detail, whether exposed trim or hidden frame work, was carefully executed by the
8 experienced hands of craftsmen, and no crude work existed as every joint and surface was
9 created to last for centuries; and

10 WHEREAS, on June 18, 1995, the Reverend Rick L. Douylliez, the present minister, was
11 ordained and installed, following a long list of both resident and supply pastors; and

12 WHEREAS, as the members and friends of the church step upon the threshold of a new
13 century, they are humbly and profoundly grateful to the grace of God and to the cloud of
14 witnesses from the past who have brought the present congregation to this milestone.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
16 join together to recognize and commend St. Marys First Presbyterian Church on the occasion
17 of its bicentennial.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
19 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Reverend Rick L. Douylliez.